RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 14th March, 1990/23rd Phalguna, 1911 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, The Deputy Chairman in the Chair.

SUSPENSION OF QUESTION HOUR

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: I have given notice for suspension of the Question Hour. (*Interruptions*)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have received a notice. (*Interruptions*) Please take your seats.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: May I have a few words on my notice?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No words. I have received notice of a Motion from Shri M. C. Bhandare, Shri R. C. Vikal and Shri Shabbir Ahmad Salaria for suspension of the rule.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: I have also given a notice.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have not received your notice. I am taking about Rule 38. You look at the rules.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: It is under Rule 267. I have given notice under Rule 267.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Don't turn a serious thing into a debate. The motion is that the Question Hour be suspended to discuss the situation in Kashmir. I am placing the same before the House.

The question is:

That the Question Hour be suspended to discuss the situation in Kashmir.

The motion was adopted.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Bofors question has been disallowed because . . . (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We are not discussing it on the floor of the House. Please take your seat.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY: Bofors has been disallowed because it is *sub judice*. It is a cover-up because one of the Ministers is involved. The Prime Minister should say something.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please consider the seriousness of the situation. Please don't disturb. Let me go ahead with the business. (*Interruptions*) I won't allow you.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Dredging facilities in the Cochin Port

*21. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the dredging facilities in the Cochin Port are dwindling due to the non-replacement of obsolete dredging equipment;

(b) if so, the total number of such equipment replaced so far; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to improve the dredging facilities in the Cochin Port in order to meet the maintenance and development requirements?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) to (c) The dredging facilities in Cochin Port suffered a reduction because three dredgers which had a total dredging capacity of 1.5 million cubic metres per annum are no longer available.

A new dredger with a dredging capacity of 1.5 million cubic metres per annum is under construction and is expected to be delivered by the end of 1990. The dredging facilities of Cochin Port are also supplemented by

the dredgers of the Dredging Corporation of India.

Setting up of Transmitters at Gadwal and Hindupur in Andhra Pradesh

*22. SHRI PUTTAPAGA RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up transmitters at Gadwal in Mahabubnagar District and Hindupur in Ananthapur District of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether there is also a proposal to replace low power transmitters by high power ones in Andhra Pradesh; and

(c) what progress has so far been made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (c) A scheme for establishment of low power TV transmitters at Gadwal and Hindupur has been included in the draft VIII Plan of Doodarshan. Schemes for the establishment of a high power (10 KW) TV transmitter each at Ananthapur and Tirupati (in replacement of the existing low power transmitters at these places) are already under implementation. At Ananthapur, construction of the transmitter building and RCC portion of TV tower has been completed. The installation of the transmitter equipment has commenced and the project is expected to be completed during 1990-91. However, arrangements have been made to operate the transmitter at reduced power of 1 KW by the end of the current financial year (1989-90).

At Tirupati, levelling and foundation work pertaining to the transmitter building is in progress. Foundation work of the TV tower has been completed and work for construction of superstructure awarded. The project is expected to be completed during 1991.

Expert Committee on Excellence in Postal services

*23. SHRI ISH DUTT YADAV:
SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Expert Committee on excellence in postal services set up in 1987 had, in its report, pointed out several weaknesses in the postal services in the country;

(b) if so, what are the major weaknesses in the postal management pointed out by the Expert Committee;

(c) what measures have been taken so far or are proposed to be taken by Government to remove these weaknesses;

(d) whether Government have spelt out its long-term organisational and financial objectives in the postal services in the country; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISITER OF STEEL AND MINES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI): (a) to (e) The Expert Committee on Excellence in Postal Services in its Report submitted in December, 1988 has identified 17 areas of weaknesses and 7 areas of strength in the Department of Post. The weaknesses identified by the Committee can be broadly classified into the following 4 major areas:

(a) Organisational

(b) Service Quality

(c) Financial and

(d) Low Level of Technology